1	2	3	4	5
12	M/s. I.T C Ltd., Calcutta .	31 51	49 81	N.A.
13	M/s M J Exports Ltd., Bombay .	42 23	44 50	35 63
14	M/s Century Textiles & Industries Ltd., Bombay	76 58	76 24	99 92
15	M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd , New Delhi	16 52	19 25	28 68
16	M/s National AG CO-OP Mkt Fed of India Ltd., New Delhi .	17 98	20 26	N A.
17	M/s Everest Gems, Bombay	(—)3 74	14 50	9 69
18	M/s Ganapati Exports Ltd , Calcutta .	62 08	56 50	66·78
19	M/s A Tosh & Sons, Calcutta . .	47 98	41 07	77 43
20	M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd , Bombay .	64 26	46 10	N A.

NOTE N A means Not Available

Recognition given under star trading houses scheme

858 DR YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that only a few business houses are eligible for recognition under the newly introduced star trading houses scheme in the Import-Export Policy for 1990—95, and

(b) if so, how many business houses have so far been recognised under the Scheme and how many are likely to be recognised in 1990-91?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) and (b) Six applications were received for the grant of Star Trading House Certificates till 31-12-1990, the last date of filing such applications. Of these, one has been rejected as the applicant did not fulfil the eligibility criteria Two applicants have been *prima facie* found eligible for issue of Star Trading House Certificates. The remaining three applications are being examined.

Export of pepper to the United States

859 DR YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of pepper to the United States has sharply come down because of the stringent quality control measures imposed by the U S. Authority, FDA;

(b) whether it is also a fact that US authorities have found rodent and bird excreta in Indian pepper;

(c) if so, how much substandard pepper was exported under quality control labels issued by Government authorities; and

(d) what steps are being taken to regain the US market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL) (a) Decline in export of pepper to USA was mainly due to stiff competition from other producing countries

(b) to (d) According to the Export Inspection Council, since May, 1988 only one consignment of Black Pepper valued at